



VULCAN LANGUAGE GUIDE

STARFLEET ACADEMY
TRAINING
MANUAL



The Vulcan Language Guide

[from Vulcan Language Guide, Starfleet Academy Training Manual, Copyright 1977 by April Publications
Note: The Vulcan Dictionary first appeared on the newsgroup alt.startrek.creative on 19 June 1992. It was written by [Bill Richmond](#) and converted to HTML by [Chris Pinette](#). This copy taken from: <http://www.pinette.net/chris/startrek/vlg.html>. Additional edits, as noted by [square brackets] and other formatting by Doug Bigham, 2005, for LIN 312.]

I have wrestled with the idea of posting this for a while but finally decided to. A couple of years ago, I ran across a Vulcan Language Guide. Since it is the only item of its kind I had ever seen I decided to purchase it. I have been asked recently by several people for info on it. As it is more of a "phamplet" than a book, I have no idea as to how to order it. I have, therefore, typed it up and am posting it here. I entered it using vi (not emTeX or any other such beast) so I had to omit the written language. I encourage everyone who is interested in this to try to find the original. I am probably breaking some copyright law by posting this but I look at it like this: 1) I am not making anything off of it, 2) It is a difficult item to find thus I am merely making it more obtainable, & 3) if anyone affiliated with April Publications sees this, please post with info on how to go about purchasing the real mccoys. Well, enough intro, here's the language guide. I hope you enjoy it...

INTRODUCTION

Vulcan is one of the chief languages of our 23rd century. Since the advent of star travel and the signing of treaties among the races of our galaxy, Vulcan has become a major power and its people can be found on many planets.

The planet Vulcan, while maintaining a[n] advanced technology, is still rich in the old traditions. The new and old are reflected in the Vulcan language.

There are more than 100 dialects of the Vulcan language. The dialect taught in this guide is the principal dialect, or first language (Anakana), of the planet Vulcan, as proclaimed by the Vulcan Academy of Sciences [sic... Vulcan Science Academy].

Below is a chart illustrating the 5 main dialects of the Vulcan language and the percentage of the population who speak them.

Dialect	English Translation	Percentage
Anakana	First Language	75%
Nikana	Second Language	10%
Noyokana	Central Language	5%
Senura-kana	Ceremonial Language	5%
Taiya-kana	Old Language	3%
Other Dialects		2%

LESSON 1: ORTHOGRAPHY

The Vulcan language does not have an alphabet such as many Earth languages do, instead, Vulcan words are formed by a series of sounds, each represented by a symbol. (NOTE: Due to limitations by the "word processor" I am using to enter this document (vi) I am unable to include the symbols of this chart of "all of the sounds & symbols of the Vulcan language." From here on out (*) means Vulcan written symbol which I can't enter though vi. Although I can't write the actual symbols, they are all mathematical symbols, or groups of symbols. An example is "ko" which is ">=". If you want the written language, you'll just need to find the original "Vulcan Language Guide").

a (*)	i (*)	u (*)	e (*)	o =
cha (*)	chi (*)	chu (*)	che (*)	cho (*)
fa (*)	fi (*)		fe (*)	fo (*)
ka (*)	ki (*)	ku (*)	ke (*)	ko >=
la (*)	li (*)	lu (*)	le (*)	lo (*)
ma (*)	mi (*)	mu (*)	me (*)	mo (*)
na (*)	ni (*)	nu (*)	ne (*)	no =
pa (*)	pi (*)	pu (*)	pe (*)	po (*)
ra (*)	ri (*)	ru (*)	re (*)	ro (*)
sha (*)	shi (*)	shu (*)	she (*)	sho (*)
ta (*)	ti (*)	tu (*)	te (*)	to (*)
wa (*)	wi (*)	wu (*)	we (*)	wo (*)
xa (*)	xi (*)	xu (*)	xe (*)	xo (*)
ya (*)	yi (*)	yu (*)	ye (*)	yo (*)

LESSON 2: PRONUNCIATION

The Vulcan vowels are pronounced as follows [IPA in brackets]:

a as in park [a]

e as the sound of a in same [e]

i as in police [i]

o as in old [o]

u as the double oo in soon [u]

ai as i in ice [aɪ]

au as ow in now [aʊ]

ei as a in face [eɪ]

oi as oy in boy [ɔɪ]

The vowel *u*, when proceeded by a consonant, is silent in a good many Vulcan words. Example: **ponu faru** (*mating time*) is pronounced as /pon far/. The Vulcan consonants are, in most cases, pronounced as they are in English with the exception of *x* which is pronounced as the *z* in English [z].

LESSON 3: ACCENTUATION

In words with 2 syllables, the stress generally falls on the first syllable or vowel [trochaic stress]. In words with 3 or more syllables, the stress usually falls on the second syllable or vowel [amphibrachic, with possible extra degenerate feet].

LESSON 4: SENTENCE STRUCTURE

In a Vulcan sentence or clause, the verb is placed at the end, and its grammatical order is subject+object+verb [SOV], so that instead of saying:

I bought a new coat, The Vulcan would say: *I a new coat bought*.

LESSON 5: ARTICLES - SINGULAR AND PLURAL

There is no definite or indefinite article in Vulcan, and only in a few cases is the plural form used, so that **woku** (*book*) may mean "the book", "a book", "books", or "the books".

LESSON 6: NOMINATIVE AND ACCUSATIVE

In most Earth languages no distinction exists between words used in the nominative and in the accusative [Not true!]. In Vulcan the distinction between these 2 cases exists, and in the nominative is indicated by the postposition "**ra**" while in the accusative is indicated by the postposition "**ro**".

Supposing that English words were Vulcan, let us consider the following sentence in which the Vulcan particles indicating the nominative and accusative are placed in the position that they should have in the Vulcan translation:

English construction - Horses eat grass.

Vulcan construction - Horses ra grass ro eat.

LESSON 7: INTERROGATIVE

The interrogative is indicated by "**ta**" at the end of a sentence or clause, which corresponds to a question mark [intonation] in English.

LESSON 8: VERBS

In Vulcan there is only one expression for all three persons, singular or plural, of each verb tense. All Vulcan verbs end with the [suffix] "**sha**" which is conjugated as follows:

- sha** - present positive
- shi** - past positive
- sho** - future positive
- shanai** - present negative
- shinai** - past negative
- shonai** - future negative

EXAMPLES:

[root = i-, do]

isha - do

ishanai - do not

ishi - did

ishinai - did not

isho - will do

ishonai - will not do

[edit]

LESSON 9: GREETINGS

shacha - hello

moi loma - good morning

moi kima - good afternoon

moi tema - good evening

moi yami - good night

oyori - good-bye

Like many Earth people, the Vulcans often use, as a way of salutation, expressions about the weather:

moi racha - good weather

waru racha - bad weather

machi itisha - it is hot

yatomi itisha - it is cold

A popular Vulcan expression used instead of saying good-bye is: "Live Long and Prosper." It is translated as follows:

Tai nasha no karosha.

LESSON 10: MOST COMMON EXPRESSIONS

ha – yes

ina - no

yana – you

wani - me

moi – good

waru - bad

daifu – sick

rena - health

NOTE: The word "**ha**" (yes) is written with the symbol "**fa**"(*), but pronounced /ha/. It is the only word in the Vulcan language that is pronounced with the "h" sound.

Yana ra moi rena ro itisha ta. - Are you in good health?

Ha, wani ra moi rena ro itisha. - Yes, I am in good health.

Ina, wani ra moi rena ro itishanai. - No, I am not in good health.

Wani ra waru rena ro itisha. - I am in bad health.

Wani ra daifu ro itisha. - I am sick.

LESSON 11: MOST COMMON EXPRESSIONS

yanamo – your	wanimo - my
taiya – old	kesu - young
mekina – mother	mekino - father
fokima – sister	fokimo - brother

Yanamo mekina ra moi rena ro itisha ta. - Is your mother in good health?

Wanimo mekino ra taiya ro itisha. - My father is old.

Wanimo fokima ra kesu ro itisha. - My sister is young.

Wanimo fokimo ra chosha. - My brother works.

Yanamo mekino ra moshi ta. - Did your father eat?

LESSON 12: MOST COMMON EXPRESSIONS

yako – where	tako - here
atako – there	woku - book
shokuto – hotel	rochinu - academy

Yana ra yako itisha ta. - Where are you?

Wani ra tako itisha. - I am here.

Wanimo woku ra yako itisha ta. - Where is the hotel?

Rochinu ra atako itisha ta. - Is the academy there?

Ha, rochinu ra atako itisha. - Yes, the academy is there.

LESSON 13: MOST COMMON EXPRESSIONS

maiya – please	nemaiyo - thank you
seisha – give	yorosha - want
reiya – water	choto - more

Wani ra reiya ro seisha. - Give me some water.

Wani ra reiya ro maiya seisha. - Please give me some water.

Yana ra choto reiya ro yorosha ta. - Do you want more water?

Nemaiyo. Wani ra choto reiya ro yoroshanai. - Thank you. I do not want more water.

LESSON 14: LANGUAGE

futisha – speak	konusha - understand
Yakana - Vulcan(language)	Eikana - English(language)

Yana ra Yakana ro futisha ta. - Do you speak Vulcan?

Ha, wani ra Yakana ro futisha. - Yes, I speak Vulcan.

Ina, wani ra Yakana ro futishanai. - No, I do not speak Vulcan.

Wani ra Eikana ro konusha. - I understand English.

Wanimo mekino ra Yakana ro futisha. - My father speaks Vulcan.

LESSON 15: EXCLAMATORY EXPRESSIONS

Semara - Fascinating!

Seino! - Of course!

Oyaka - Splendid!

Nato tesha. - Wait a moment!

Rano itisha. - It is logical!

Nachama. - Surprising!

Kuroika. - Stop!(command)

Moichino itisha ta. - Is it the truth?

Noto ta. - Really?

Chatai. - Excuse me!

LESSON 16: NUMBERS

1 - ana

2 - nina

3 - shina

4 - wana

5 - shana

6 - rana

7 - nena

8 - lona

9 - xina

10 - kuna

From 11 to 19, numbers are formed by dropping the syllable "na" from kuna (10) and adding the numeral given above from 1 to 9. The English literal translation would be: ten-one for 11, ten-two for 12, etc. [Looks familiar, no?]

11 - ku-ana

12 - ku-nina

[edit . . .]

19 - ku-xina

Decimals from 20:

20 - nina-ku

[edit, all follow this example]

Hundreds (rai):

100 - ana-rai

200 - nina-rai

[edit, all follow this example]

Thousands (sai):

1000 - ana-sai

2000 - nina-sai

[edit, all follow this example]

Examples of various numbers:

25 - nina-ku shana

42 - wana-ku nina

58 - shana-ku lona

103 - ana-rai shina

515 - shana-rai ku-shana

895 - lona-rai xina-ku shana

1300 - ana-sai shina-rai

6501 - rana-sai shana-rai ana

LESSON 17: USING NUMBERS

nanuto – what acha - how many

acho - how much pata - hour

osera – age toi - time

Yanamo osera ra nanuto itisha ta. - What is your age?

Wanimo osera ra shina-ku shana itisha. - My age is 35.

Toi ra nanuto itisha ta. - What time is it?

Toi ra pata kuna itisha. - The time is hour ten.

Woku ra acha itisha ta. - How many books are there?

Lona woku ra itisha. - There are eight books.

Woku ra acho itisha ta. - How much is the book?

LESSON 18: TRAVEL

yasha - come(come from)

esha - go(go to)

masha - have

kome - another

tara - planet

reito - passport

Yatara - Vulcan(planet)

Eitara - Earth(planet)

Yana ra yako yasha ta. - Where do you come from?

Wani ra Eitara ro yasha. - I come from Earth.

Wani ra kome tara ro yasha. - I come from another planet.

Yana ra yako esha ta. - Where are you going?

Wani ra Yatara ro esha. - I am going to Vulcan.

Yana ra reito ro masha ta. - Do you have a passport?

LESSON 19: HONORIFICS

In polite speech, when referring to certain persons or things, respect is indicated by prefixing the phonetic sound of "**la**"(*honorable*) to the noun indicating the esteemed object. Below are a few examples:

kuramano - ambassador
la-kuramano - honorable ambassador
chameto - ancestor
la-chameto - honorable ancestor
rochinu seiya - academy of sciences
la-rochinu seiya - honorable academy of sciences
kasemano - doctor
la-kasemano - honorable doctor

LESSON 20: WRITING VULCAN

The Vulcan language is written by replacing the Romanized sounds used in this guide with the symbols listed in the chart presented earlier [which is, unfortunately, unavaiable]. A Vulcan sentence has two forms of punctuation: the pause (**shiru**) which is indicated by three dots positioned in the shape of an inverted triangle and the end (**shoto**) which is indicated by three dots positioned in the shape of an isosceles triangle. (In the original guide, after every Vulcan-English sentence combo below, the written form of the sentence is provided. This feature will be omitted here for aforementioned reasons.)

Examples:

Yana ra yatomi ro itisha ta. - Are you cold?
Wanimο mekinο ra nemusha. - My father is sleeping.
Yana ra moi futisha. - You speak good.
Reiya ra yatomi ro itisha. - The water is cold.
Ha, woku ra semara ro itisha. - Yes, the book is fascinating.
Wani ra rochinu seiya ro esha. - I am going to the academy of sciences.
Wanimο mekinο ra kuramano ro itisha. - My father is an ambassador.
Wani ra Eikana no Yakana ro konusha. - I understand English and Vulcan.

DICTIONARY OF VULCAN WORDS

<i>VULCAN</i>	<i>ENGLISH</i>	<i>VULCAN</i>	<i>ENGLISH</i>
acha	how many	loma	morning
acho	how much	macha	today
ainama	beautiful	machi	hot
aisha	love	mafa	mind
aiya	star	maiya	please
aiya wasu	starship	manasu	leg
akaxo	alien, out-worlder	masha	have
anasu	eye	maxa	brown
anu wunu	a Vulcan weapon	mekano	name
asha	meditate	mekina	mother
atai	far	mekino	father
atako	there	moi	good
atano	few	moichino	truth
cha	blood	mosha	eat
chamai	big	nachama	surprising
chameto	ancestor	nanasu	foot
chasu	long	nauto	what
chatai	Excuse me!	nasha	live
chaxa	white	nato	moment
chikaru	animal	nemaiyo	thank you
chisu	short	nemusha	sleep
chosha	work	no	and
choto	more	nome	all
daifu	sick	noto	really
e	fire	osera	age
Eikana	English(language)	oyaka	splendid
Eitara	Earth(planet)	oyori	goodbye
emafa kito	Vulcan mind touch	panasu	toe
emafa suru	Vulcan mind meld	pata	hour
emi	never	ponu faru	mating time
ero	after	pulomiku	Vulcan soup
eru	day	racha	weather
esha	go	ranasu	arm
eta	Vulcan nerve pinch	rano	logical
fa	(see "ha")	rato	Vulcan grapes
fanasu	nose	raxa	black
faruwa	dirty	reito	passport
fikaru	strong	reiya	water
fokima	sister	rena	health
fokimo	brother	rochinu	academy
fuma	female	seino	Of course!
fumo	male	seisha	give
futisha	speak	seiya	science
ha	yes	selatu	sehlat(Vulcan pet)
imi	sometimes	semara	fascinating
ina	no	shacha	hello
ipai	slow	shayo	brandy
iri-kaisha	intermarriage	shaxa	blue

iro	before	shiru	pause(sentence)
iru	night	shokuto	hotel
isha	do	shoto	end(sentence)
isu	down	tai	long
itai	near	taiya	old
itaru	ugly	taiyo	chess
itisha	is, are, am	tako	chess
iya	hungry	talu shaya	kill by snapping the neck
kaisha	marriage	tara	planet
kaifa	wife	taxa	red
kaifo	husband	tema	evening
kalifa	Let the ceremony begin!	tesha	wait
kalifi	challenge	toi	time
kara	why	urikisha	read
karosha	prosper	wani	me
kasei	phaser	wanimo	my
kasemano	doctor	waru	bad
kasu wanu	Vulcan maturity test	wasu	ship
kesu	young	woku	book
kima	afternoon	Yakana	Vulcan(language)
kome	another	yako	where
konaya	food	yami	night
konusha	understand	yana	you
kotai	little	yanamo	your
kulifa	I refuse!	yanasu	finger
kuramano	ambassador	yasha	come
kuroika	stop(command)	Yatara	Vulcan(planet)
lanasu	ear	Yatomi	cold
laxa	yellow	yaxa	green
limatuya	Vulcan wild animal	yorosha	want

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